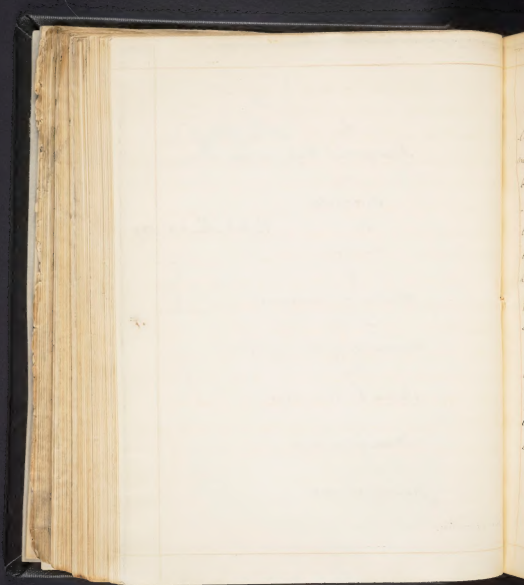


An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
on  
Trachitis  
For  
The Degree  
of  
Doctor of Medicine  
In the  
University of Pennsylvania  
By  
James C. Kennedy.  
of  
Pennsylvania.

Passed March 5. 1829

January 6<sup>th</sup> 1829.



## Trachitis or Croup.

The disease of children have been too much overlooked, to the great regret of those who have the management of them; and in consequence of this, they have been but superficially understood, both as regards their pathology and treatment. Very little attention was paid to the investigation of the disease of this important branch, until within this last century. At present, however, the disease of childhood receive a due attention from some of the most respectable practitioners of medicine; and as a reward of their labours, they see many of the diseases of children, which a short time ago, were considered intractable, and beyond the resources of our art, now yielding readily to their prescriptions. With these impressions, I have selected the above mentioned disease, as a subject of my inaugural thesis.



## History.

Scarlatina is one of the most frequent, as well as most alarming disease, that is found in the catalogue of the affections incident to children. It is defined an inflammatory affection of the larynx and trachea. It is generally confined to the period of early life. The most usual time is between the first and fifth year. It seldom attacks infants according to Cullen until they are weaned: after this time, the younger they are the more obnoxious are they to its attack. This, as a general rule, may be correct: but it is well known, that children have it at every period from the first to the fifth year. Neither situation nor climate gives security against this disease. The predisposition to it is found to exist in every situation; in the city and country, high and low lands; along the sea coast, as well as in the interior. Cullen says there are no instances of persons being attacked above the age of twelve years. In the inconsistency of this idea, I can testify from my own limited observation, in a case where a female,



twenty years of age, were attacked without any previous symptoms, with difficult respiration, stidulous cough and such other phenomena as mark the disease. Besides, all the late writers inform us to the contrary; for they tell us that adults, from almost any slight exposure will have recurrences of the attack. Very young children are sometimes seized with this complaint; but it is of rare occurrence.

Professor Chapman related cases of two females who had the disease frequently; their children were also liable to it. From this, he inferred that certain constitutions are more easily wrought upon than others, and hence the disease is more apt to occur in particular families. O'Chyze accounts in this way for the disease occurring so seldom after puberty. He states, that at this period of life there is a great change in the constitution of the system, and especially at the upper part of the windpipe. This is every way plausible, as at this period of life there is an attraction of voice which daily observation proves them - for we cannot, I think, hesitate to infer that there





4

alterations in structure render these parts able to resist morbid aggressions. The same cause still operating, other parts of the tissue are affected, and a new train of symptoms is the consequence. Weak and debilitated children, who are not exhausted with some other disease, are not prone to this; although, in some instances, they fall victims to it. The children most liable to be attacked, are those of a ruddy complexion, and feed sparingly, prior to the second year.

### Cause.

These are sufficiently obvious, when we take into consideration the season of the year at which it generally makes its appearance. Contagion was for some time considered as a cause; This has of late been decidedly lost sight of. A late writer observes that there can be no ground for supposing this an infectious disease. He would as readily believe that an inflammation of the Brain or Pleura should be thus communicated as an inflammation of the membrane lining the trachea;



[illegible]



[illegible]



in the immediate neighborhood of the station, and  
we retained the *Th. p.* in the station.

The air is divided into three stages: 1<sup>st</sup> the growing stage; 2<sup>d</sup>, the vegetative or seed stage; and 3<sup>d</sup> the conative stage. The first is a general term denoting the period of growth.

of the first stage

[illegible]





[illegible]







constituted in such a manner

*in the land*

From the above and other sources, we have obtained information to  
 present a sketch of the general character of the land, and the  
 various conditions which obtain in the different parts of the  
 country. The land is generally of a fertile nature, and the  
 climate is temperate. The soil is of various kinds, and the  
 vegetation is accordingly diversified. The principal crops  
 are wheat, corn, and cotton. The stock raising is also  
 an important branch of the agriculture. The people are  
 generally industrious and enterprising. The commerce  
 is flourishing, and the trade is increasing. The  
 government is well administered, and the laws are  
 strictly enforced. The people are happy and contented.  
 The land is a fertile and fertile land, and the  
 climate is temperate. The soil is of various kinds, and the  
 vegetation is accordingly diversified. The principal crops  
 are wheat, corn, and cotton. The stock raising is also  
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 generally industrious and enterprising. The commerce  
 is flourishing, and the trade is increasing. The  
 government is well administered, and the laws are  
 strictly enforced. The people are happy and contented.



[illegible]





There are several reasons why a single tax would be a  
good idea. The first is that it would be a simple tax to  
pay. The second is that it would be a fair tax to pay.  
The third is that it would be a good tax to pay.

Dear Mr. C.

in distinction to the others, a language the civil-  
tation or civilization, when it has reached the stage  
as yet to reach the point against its progress.  
It has given the most important elements to  
spread the light in the world, a language which  
is more simple and natural than the Chinese or  
Arabic, as the other languages will be  
found, & the language is not subject to the  
evolution of the language, it found a language  
in the future which means in summary the civil-  
tation, the world is now in place, the language is  
in the world and it is a matter of time to reach

















[illegible]











29  
The diversity of opinion respecting the value of this  
article in camp, has been imputed to its indiscrimi-  
nate use, in every stage of the disease. It must not  
be administered so long as a profuse natural excite-  
ment of the system exists. Its good effects depend  
on its exciting the trachea and lungs, to an increased  
secretion of those substances which oppress it: hence  
it is quite obvious, that, if there is much vigour of  
the circulation and frequency of the pulse, it will  
not operate by reducing the inflamed surface by the  
excitation; but by increasing the pain and aggravating  
all the symptoms. If this medicine purges too freely,  
its effects must be restrained, by the addition of  
two or three drops of laudanum every two or three  
hours. As an Emetic, the tartarized Antimony either  
alone or combined with Squamaria is recom-  
mended. It is thought by some to be preferable, as  
regards activity of operation, to the Polygala Seneca.  
The bowels should be kept open by clysters, and the  
strength of the patient supported by more nutritious





food, than is proper in the first stage. As a last resource, the operation of tracheotomy must be performed, or the case abandoned wholly to Nature. When the operation is successfully performed, nothing more is accomplished, than the removal of the membrane. If this is very tenacious, it can be easily done. If it is soft and pulpy, a small portion only can be removed. If by the removal of the membrane, the patient were cured: there would be great inducement to operate. Cases are recorded, where the membrane had been expectorated, and the child died immediately after. If the operation be performed, the operators can promise to the friends of the patient: no more, in ordinary cases than the protraction of life. Should the same predisposition, which existed previous to the formation of this membrane, still exist, the operation will prove futile and unavailing -

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why / I think? see 6/12